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## HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

DELIVERED ON THE

Quarter-Centennial Anniversary

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

ON

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25TH, 1873,

BY JOHN N. WADDEL, D. D., LL. D.,

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.

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OXFORD, MISS.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, }  
Oxford, 1873. }

Wednesday, June 25th, being the TWENTY-FIFTH Anniversary of the organization of this Institution, a Historical Discourse was delivered by invitation of the Board of Trustees, by the Chancellor, Rev. JOHN N. WADDEL, D. D.; after which the Board unanimously adopted the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That Chancellor WADDEL is entitled to the thanks of every friend of the University for the splendid Oration delivered by him on yesterday. That his able and conclusive vindication of the University against the assaults of all its enemies, inspires the Board of Trustees with renewed hope of making this noble Institution the pride and glory of Mississippians and their posterity forever.

*Resolved*, That the Chancellor be respectfully requested to place his Oration at our disposal for publication, and that Five Hundred Copies of the same be printed.

*Resolved*, That there being now material enough for one volume of the History of the University, our beloved Chancellor be earnestly requested to prepare the same for publication at as early a day as he conveniently can.



# DISCOURSE.

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## I. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

The spot where we now stand, though not "holy ground," is certainly invested with no ordinary interest to every Mississippian. Three hundred and thirty-three years since, when the territory of the State was the property of the wild savage, and the unbroken forest stood in its primeval grandeur, untrodden by any other than the Red Man's foot, save that of the untamed beast, his scarcely less civilized companion, the first European adventurer that ever appeared upon our soil presented himself to the astonished natives. This was the celebrated Hernando de Soto, the renowned Spanish explorer, who, having served with distinction under Pizarro in his Peruvian Conquest, himself conducted an expedition from Spain in 1539, for the conquest of Florida. Beginning his march from the Bay of Espiritu Santo, better known as Tampa Bay, towards the close of 1540 he found himself in the country of the Chickasaw Indians, in the north-east part of this State. Our interest in this great adventurer is much enhanced by the statement of a contemporaneous writer, that DeSoto's winter-quarters must be located near the north-eastern portion of Pontotoc County; a conjecture arising no doubt from the fact, that in this locality "remains of ancient fortifications are still to be seen, and relics of European origin . . . have also been found." After his first appearance in this region, DeSoto's career was brief. Our object in referring to his sojourn at all is to suggest that, as there is a high probability of his having "traversed the country comprising the county bearing his name—DeSoto—and as

he is stated to have crossed the Mississippi at or near the "Chickasaw Bluffs," it is not at all improbable that he may have passed over the very spot on which we are this day assembled to recognize with honor the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of a School of the Higher Learning: a spot then held by savage and inhospitable tribes of Indians.

It constitutes no part of my purpose to-day, to detail the history of the oft-repeated and ever-abortive attempts of DeSoto's successors, LaSalle, Bienville, and Iberville, to subdue this new world of the South-west. I shall content myself with a mere reference to the prominent eras of our history.

For one hundred and thirty-eight years after the failure of DeSoto and his followers, in their proposed conquest of the country, no bold adventurer or explorer appeared to disturb the native tribes in their quiet possession of the country. Then came LaSalle, and the Chevalier de Tonti, whose repeated attempts to establish a colony resulted only in disastrous failure. After another interval of eighteen years, in 1699, Iberville, under the patronage of the French, effected a settlement near Biloxi, followed by no successful prosecution of the enterprise. After the lapse of some years, he selected as a site for a town, a point on the Mississippi river immediately below and in the suburbs of the present city of Natchez, built a fort and called it Rosalie.

The history of the early settlements upon the soil of Mississippi, is marked by the usual vicissitudes common to all attempts to colonize countries occupied by savage tribes. Under three different foreign Governments, attempts of this kind were made, until finally the permanent occupancy and possession of the country became indisputably assured to the Government of the United States. Thus, through a period of sixty-four years, France was engaged in an effort to govern the country and develop its resources by Agriculture and Commerce. Great Britain succeeded France, and held it as a province for thirteen years, when she was succeeded by Spain, who established a Provisional Government and kept possession of it for nineteen years. At that time, as though wearied with ineffectual

struggles to establish such a foothold upon the soil as would contribute to the advantage of the mother countries, the European nations ceased all further enterprises of the kind, and on the 30th of March, 1798, the forts at Natchez and Walnut Hills, (now Vicksburg) were evacuated by the Spanish troops, and the country was taken possession of by the United States authorities, under whose jurisdiction it has ever since remained.

By Act of Congress, on the 7th of April, 1798, the Mississippi Territory was formally established. Its limits included all the region lying between the Mississippi river on the West and the Chatahoochee on the East, and it extended from the 31st to the 35th degree of North Latitude. This vast domain is now covered by the two great States, Alabama and Mississippi. The right and jurisdiction over it then vested in Georgia by virtue of her old Colonial Charter, granted by George II, King of Great Britain, on June 9th, 1732.

On the 24th of April, 1802, articles of Cession and Agreement were entered into between Commissioners on the part of the United States and other Commissioners on the part of the State of Georgia, whereby the latter cedes to the United States all the right, title and claim held by her to the jurisdiction and soil within those limits. From this period to the year 1817, the country remained in a Territorial condition. In that year, on March 1st, an act was passed enabling the people of the Western part of this Territory "to form for themselves a Constitution and a State Government, and to be received into the Union on an equal footing with the original States." The limits prescribed to this new State then were nearly identical with the limits of the State as they are now recognized, and this left the remainder of her late extent in the form and by the title of "the Territory of Alabama." We thus arrive at the fact that more than half a century has elapsed since Mississippi became a regularly organized State.

During this fifty-six years, events of vast moment have occurred, and the State has passed through scenes of alternate prosperity and adversity. With the political bearing of much of her history, we, on this occasion, have no concern, save that we may note the fact

that Mississippians have ever manifested a greater enthusiasm in political contests than in all other matters, and in that vast vortex every other interest has been absorbed.

## 2. GENERAL EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.

Among the matters entitled to the earnest consideration of a young State, in her early history, that of the education of her people stands in the front rank of importance. Yet we are struck with the fact, which is not more true of Mississippi than of other States, that very little is accomplished in this grand department of human progress, compared with what is done in those interests that are purely material. It may probably be attributable to the peculiar character of our American people, which is always energetic and enterprising in the direction of that which is practically progressive, and which addresses itself to their more palpable interests. We are not a staid,—not strictly a conservative race. While Europeans look well to the foundations upon which they erect their national prosperity, and will not move until every point in their future progress is outlined and thoroughly matured and fixed; based upon solid and substantial supports; the American rushes to conclusions, and grasps after results, little recking what is behind him, and as little caring for intervening opposition. The subduing of the forests, and reducing the soil to cultivation, so as to render the country habitable, and preparing the way for human civilization, are the objects first contemplated by the American settler of new regions. The pioneers of our own State formed no exception to the rule. Yet there remain on record abundant evidences of the fact, that, at a very early period after the country came into the possession of the United States, a disposition to encourage education was developed among the people of the Territory.

In the year 1802, Jefferson College, at Washington, near Natchez, was founded; and in 1803 an entire township of land was granted by Congress for its support. In 1812, Congress passed an act for the location of those lands. In 1820, three years after the admission of



the State into the Union, the Legislature of Mississippi granted to the College a loan of \$4,000. For some reason not known, notwithstanding all that has been done for this Institution, it has been a failure, and has been of little, if of any, advantage to the cause of Education in this State.

The record of Mississippi, however, is honorable, since in the early period of her organized existence, from 1798 to 1848, there had been established one hundred and ten Institutions under the various names of Universities, Colleges, Academies and Schools, exclusive of Schools founded upon sixteenth sections of Public Lands; proving that an entire obliviousness of the Educational wants of the people has not prevailed in our past History. Still our gratification in the statement of this fact is somewhat abated by the consideration that the organization of these Institutions seems to have proven, in the majority of cases, inefficient, and the amount of really beneficial progress appears to have been very inconsiderable.

These efforts, however, are certainly commendable; they point in the right direction. If they did fail to achieve all that should have been achieved, it must be attributed to the state of the country. The pioneers of society must always secure, as a primary necessity, the means of living; and besides, the new countries are generally crowded with adventurers, who come with golden visions of vast fortunes speedily to be amassed; and thus that attention, which is indispensable to the success of Education, is directed to other objects not so worthy.

### 3. INITIATORY STEPS IN FOUNDING A UNIVERSITY.

By the liberality of the Congress of 1819, two years after Mississippi had been admitted into the Union, an entire township of the public domain within the State,—23,040 acres—was granted to the State for the purpose of establishing a Seminary of Learning. The title to this land was, by act of Congress, vested in the State Legislature, *in trust*, for the support of the Institution. We learn, also,

by further investigation, that the trust was accepted by the Legislature, and that in pursuance of the spirit and intent of the Act, "lands of great value" were selected by the State, and, in due time, thirty-five and one-half of the thirty-six sections were sold. Notes were taken from the purchasers, with approved security, and deposited in the Planters' Bank, for collection, in 1833. Several years thereafter, the first action was taken in the way of applying the fund which thus accrued to the purposes for which the grant had been intended.

The Legislature had taken action to have Commissioners appointed who should visit various points in the State, and receive proposals inviting the location of the University in their midst. In 1841, after some struggle, Oxford, in LaFayette County, was selected by a majority of one vote, as the seat of the Institution. The citizens of Oxford and the county of LaFayette had purchased a section of land, and donated it to the authorities of the University, as a site whereon to build.

In 1844 the Legislature chartered the Institution under the following Board of Trustees:

HON. J. ALEXANDER VENTRESS,*	.....Woodville,.....	deceased in 1868
HON. JNO. ANTHONY QUITMAN,*	...Natchez,.....	resigned in 1848
HON. WM. L. SHARKEY,*	.....Jackson,.....	deceased in 1873
HON. EDWARD C. WILKINSON,*	.....Yazoo City,.....	" 1856
Rev. FRANCIS L. HAWKS,* D. D.,	.....Holly Springs,.....	resigned in 1845
HON. ALEX. H. PEGUES,*	.....Oxford,.....	" 1860
HON. WM. Y. GHOLSON,*	.....	" 1854
HON. ALEXANDER M. CLAYTON,	.....Marshall County,...	" 1870
HON. JACOB THOMPSON,	.....Oxford,.....	" 1864
PRYOR LEE, Esq.,	.....Jackson,.....	" 1846
HON. JAMES M. HOWRY,	.....Oxford,.....	" 1870
JOHN J. MCCAUGHAN, Esq.,*	.....Mississippi City,...	" 1848
Rev. JOHN N. WADDEL, D. D.,	.....Montrose,.....	" 1848

Of the original chartered Board of thirteen Trustees, only five still survive. Shortly after the act of incorporation, the Board proceeded to organize themselves into a regular body and commenced

\*Deceased.

the discharge of their important duties. On a day appointed, the corner-stone of the principal edifice—the Lyceum—was laid with appropriate Masonic ceremonies, and an address was delivered by the Hon. John J. McCaughan.

#### 4. ELECTION OF FIRST FACULTY.

In July 1848, the Board proceeded to the election of their first Faculty. Extensive notice of the time of this election having been given through the public prints, the Board, on assembling, found themselves in possession of the names and certificates of recommendation of about one hundred and eighty candidates for office in the Faculty, distributed about as follows: for the office of President, seventeen applicants sent in their names; for the Professorship of Mathematics and Astronomy, there were sixty candidates; thirty applied for Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and for the chair of Ancient Languages, from sixty to seventy-five candidates laid their claims before the Board. In the course of this election, a discussion arose involving important principles of organization, and which had a material bearing upon the future of the University, and the influence of the discussion affected the election in its results. An influential Trustee planted himself upon the untenable ground that “no clergyman of any denomination should be elected to a Chair;” and the gentleman, also, protested earnestly against the introduction into the Curriculum, as a study, of “the Evidences of Christianity.” In this latter position he was sustained by another Trustee, who tendered his resignation upon the fact that this branch of study was to be introduced. The ground of opposition to these two ideas was stated to be, that “the Evidences could not be taught so as to avoid the inculcation of the tenets of some particular church, or some theological dogma peculiar to some Christian sect. The Institution being the property of the State, and not of any Sect or Party, the people of the State, of all descriptions, had a right to forbid any propagation of religion that would not be universally acceptable. It was manifestly improper, therefore, that such things should be permitted, and this would be inevitable should Ministers of the

Gospel be eligible to Professorships, or should the Evidences of Christianity form a part of the Course of Study." I have in my possession, to this day, a letter from one of the wisest and most devoted members of the Board of Trustees who participated in this election, which bears date July 19th, 1848, and states the fact that "one member of the Board resigned because the Evidences of Christianity formed part of the Curriculum, and in his letter of resignation made a long and heavy assault upon religion;" again, he adds, "another Trustee followed this letter with an assault upon the Ministry." Such was one of the many difficulties which then pressed upon the University; beginning with its infancy, difficulties have kept pace with its entire career in some shape or other.

The assaults referred to were not, to the extent designed, successful, it is true. They were influential enough to prevent the election to the Presidency of an eminent educator, who was voted for, and who was a Clergyman; yet the debate, which was held in public, in the presence of many of the best citizens, members of the various churches of the country, created so strong a sensation of disapprobation, and so much indignation was aroused against the action of the Board, as to cause a reaction before the close of the election. The balloting continued from Monday to Friday, at intervals, and resulted as follows:

GEORGE FREDERICK HOLMES, LL. D., was elected President, and his duties of instruction were to embrace Metaphysics, Ethics, Political Economy, &c. At the time of his election, Mr. H. was a Professor in William and Mary College, Virginia; an Englishman by birth.

ALBERT TAYLOR BLEDSOE, LL. D., was elected to the Chair of Mathematics and Astronomy. At the time of his election he was a citizen of Springfield, Illinois; a native of Kentucky, and a graduate of the West Point Military Academy.

JOHN MILLINGTON, M. D., was elected Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. Dr. M. was, at the time of his election, a Professor in William and Mary College, Virginia; by birth an Englishman.

JOHN N. WADDEL, D. D., was elected to fill the Chair of Ancient and Modern Languages. He was, at the time, a citizen of Jasper County, Mississippi; and, by birth, he is a South Carolinian; a graduate of the University of Georgia.

These four gentlemen were selected from about one hundred and seventy-five or one hundred and eighty applicants, and one of the four was a clergyman, the strong opposition "to the contrary notwithstanding."

Still, the public discussions in relation to the Evidences of Christianity exerted an unfavorable influence, and many persons abroad, throughout this State and the adjoining States, received the impression that the University was a regularly organized infidel Institution. It may, perhaps, be attributed to this, as an immediate result, that only eighty matriculates were enrolled during the first session, and very little religious influence was exerted over the student-body.

The University of Mississippi was opened in regular form on the 6th of November, 1848. Inauguration Exercises were conducted in the Lyceum, in the Chemical Lecture Room, the only public Hall on the Campus at that time which was capacious enough to accommodate an audience of any considerable size. A large and interested assembly were on that occasion addressed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, by HON. JACOB THOMPSON, then a Member of Congress from Mississippi, and a man of extensive influence and widely extended popularity. This was followed by an elaborate and chaste oration by the President, GEO. F. HOLMES, who is now a Professor in the University of Virginia.

Thus organized, the Faculty and Students entered at once upon the practical discharge of their respective duties, under many difficulties and inconveniences. In a town of the interior; remote from the great thoroughfares, and long before lines of Railroads were established to any great extent, no text-books were to be obtained at all, and great delay ensued before this want, and that of other essentials, could be supplied. In due time, however, the new machinery was fairly put into operation.

## 5. FIRST STUDENT BODY.

Fidelity to my office as Historian on this occasion, impels me to record that, in all probability, very rarely, if ever, was an Institution attended by a body of Students so disorderly and turbulent as the first Students of the University, in mass, proved to be. It is true, that among those early students there were some of the first young men of the country; but in point of morals and intellectual advancement, the large body of the Students were idle, uncultivated, and ungovernable. The health of the child of the President requiring its return to Virginia, and the failing health of the President himself rendering it necessary, he returned to Virginia, and at the close of the first session the University was found without a President. Professor Bledsoe was requested by the Board to act as President, and aided by the two remaining Professors; the affairs of the University were successfully managed by him, and the session closed with an exhibition of the Students, of Elocution and Composition. Previous to the close of the session, however, the office of Professor was by no means a sinecure—no child's play.

The difficulties in the management of the Students, arose from the assembling together of so many untrained young men and boys, many of whom had never before attended such an Institution, and whose imaginations had been allured with the traditional belief that a College life was only a scene of fun and frolic. I may dismiss this subject with the remark that, in my opinion, nothing saved the infant University from utter ruin, under God's blessing, but the sternest and most rigid exercise of discipline.

The Institution, as has already been remarked, did not pass unscathed through the fiery ordeal. The confidence of the citizens of the State had received a shock so violent, in consequence of the disorders of the first session, coupled with the still lingering apprehensions awakened at the outset in regard to the infidel tendencies of the University, that it was very slow in returning.

## 6. STATISTICS.

The Institution, however, began its career from the auspicious period of the accession to office of the second President, the eminent and beloved Longstreet. For, although the number in attendance during the second Session was small, yet in all the elements of true prosperity, in orderly deportment, diligent application, and mental progress on the part of the Students; in fidelity and success on the part of the Faculty, the Institution was far in advance of its status during the first Session. The statistics of its patronage, year by year, enjoyed by the University during the Twenty Sessions of its actual operation, show that, with the usual slight variation in number common to all Institutions, which may be readily and satisfactorily accounted for, the confidence of the people in the University has been steadily growing.

The number in attendance during the first Session was 80; during the second it was 76; during the third, 134; during the fourth, 144; during the fifth, 130; during the sixth, 158; during the seventh, 173; during the eighth, 225; during the ninth, 264; during the tenth, 178; during the eleventh, 168; during the twelfth, 216; during the thirteenth, 196; during the fourteenth, 246; during the fifteenth, 231; during the sixteenth, 214; during the seventeenth, 208; during the eighteenth, 120; during the nineteenth, 260; during the twentieth, 303.

From the opening of the Institution, in 1848, to the present time, the number of Graduates in the Department of Science, Literature and the Arts, including the Graduates of the present year, is, in the aggregate, 416; in the Department of Law, 114; thus, combining both Departments, our Alumni number 530. The entire number matriculated from the beginning, is 3,106, of whom 855 were not graduated, although pursuing the regular course of study, while 364 have spent a longer or shorter time with us, taking a course of select studies, not designed for any degree.

## 7. PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Forty-three different individuals have served as Trustees since the origin of the University. Seventeen of this number have died, twenty-six survive. The names of the deceased Trustees are as follows:

## I. TRUSTEES AND THEIR NECROLOGY.

HON. J. ALEXANDER VENTRESS: a gentleman of scholarly attainments, educated in Germany.

HON. JOHN ANTHONY QUITMAN: a native of New York; one of our noblest public men; a distinguished lawyer; a leader in the Democratic Party in the days of its prosperity; prominent in the Mexican War; and a devoted friend of the University.

HON. WILLIAM L. SHARKEY: whose name needs but to be mentioned in a Mississippi audience to secure the homage of admiration and respect for him as a profound Jurist and a large-hearted, generous nobleman of Nature.

HON. E. C. WILKINSON: eminent as a Lawyer, a Judge and a Publicist.

COL. JOHN J. MCCAUGHAN: who figures largely in the financial history of Mississippi; a bold, pronounced infidel, prominent in his opposition to the connection of religion in any form with the University.

REV. FRANCIS L. HAWKS, D. D.: a polished scholar, a refined gentleman, an eloquent orator; a distinguished Minister of the Episcopal Church; author of a History of North Carolina; a man of great elevation of character, and extraordinary culture.

HON. ALEXANDER HAMILTON PEGUES: a native of South Carolina; prominent for many years in the councils of this State as a Senator; who served the University for sixteen years as Trustee with marked fidelity; a citizen of this County from a very early period, for whom the large mass of this audience retain profound respect for his patriotic devotion to the true interests of his country, and who recently passed away from among us, universally lamented.



Hon. WM. Y. GHOLSON: a distinguished citizen of Aberdeen, who removed to Cincinnati at an early period after his appointment as Trustee, and died there since the war.

Hon. THOMAS H. WILLIAMS: "an honest man" in the true sense of that phrase; who served the State as one of the early Senators in Congress; for many years publicly and actively engaged in the political affairs of Mississippi, having canvassed the State in the celebrated campaign in which the payment of the Union Bank bonds was the great political question, as bond-paying Democratic candidate for Governor; a member of the Board of Trustees for six years, and Secretary and Treasurer for three years; not excelled by any Trustee ever in office, in practical wisdom and enlightened zeal for the best interests of the University.

Hon. ISAAC N. DAVIS: a Georgian by birth and education; who for years occupied a prominent place in the political history of Mississippi, and whose heart and energies were very freely devoted to the promotion of the prosperity of the University.

Hon. C. PINCKNEY SMITH: a distinguished Jurist; at the time of his death, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Judge Smith was a man of a very high order of intellect, and enjoyed the confidence of his large circle of friends, as a man of integrity and honor, to a degree far beyond what is usual. He died in 1864.

Hon. HENRY MOUNGER: a Georgian by birth and education, who came to Mississippi at an early period, settled himself as an Attorney in the Eastern part of the State, rose to the bench, and, withal, was a pious and prominent Minister of the Gospel of the Methodist Episcopal Church; died in 1850.

Hon. JOHN J. McRAE: a native Mississippian, who occupied many positions of civic honor and trust in the State; elected Governor in 1853, serving two terms; appointed, also, United States Senator to fill an unexpired term; and whose best services were always freely given to the University during the last eighteen years of his life, which closed in 1868.

REV. DANIEL P. BESTOR, D. D.: an eminent educator; a distinguished Minister of the Baptist Church; a man of upright and spotless character; a kind-hearted, genial companion and friend; irreproachable in all the relations of life; devoted to the University during the four years of his Trusteeship: he died in 1869.

HON. GILES M. HILLYER: prominent in the journalism of the State, and in its political history; a New Yorker by birth and education; a graduate of Columbia College in the city of New York; Counsellor at Law; who served as a Trustee for four years, dying in 1870.

HON. WILLIAM YERGER: one of the "noblest Romans of them all;" an eloquent advocate; a man of genius and profound legal learning; an incorruptible Judge; a Patriot and a Christian; whose death occurred so recently that the wound inflicted upon the public heart has not yet been cicatrized, and no lapse of time can ever obliterate his name from the memory of the people whom he so honored by his great services, and of whom he was at once an attractive ornament, and strong pillar of support.

COL. JOHN DUNCAN: appointed Trustee in 1869; a zealous and active member of the Board until his death, which occurred in the city of Jackson in 1872.

A law was passed by the Legislature in 1856, making the Governor of the State, ex-officio President of the Board of Trustees. It is, therefore, proper to state, in this connection, that there have been eleven Presidents of the Board since the beginning, of which number five were Trustees by appointment, and six were Trustees by virtue only of their holding the office of Governor of the State.

The list of ex-officio Presidents is as follows:

HON. JOHN J. MCRAE,\* HON. WM. MCWILLIE,\* HON. J. J. PETTUS,\* HON. CHARLES CLARK, HON. WM. L. SHARKEY,\* HON. B. G. HUMPHREYS, HON. A. AMES, HON. J. L. ALCORN, HON. R. C. POWERS.

\*Deceased.

Of these, Governors McRae, Sharkey and Clark were Trustees independently of their holding the office of Governor; Messrs. McWillie, Pettus, Humphreys, Ames, Alcorn and Powers held office in the Board in right of their official position of Governor.

Four of the Presiding officers are deceased; two of them have already been noticed, viz: Messrs. McRae and Sharkey; the remaining two, Governors McWillie and Pettus, served the University with fidelity and efficiency, and both died after the late war.

The foregoing sketches, meagre as they are in information, comprise all that can be stated in an address of this character. To have an extended biographical notice of all the members of the Board of Trustees, prepared and preserved now, while the means of accurate information are accessible, is a matter of deep interest to the University. It is to be hoped that such a labor of love may yet be performed, which may be read at leisure, by all the friends of the Institution. The great length to which an Address containing such sketches would necessarily be extended, precludes such a trial of the patience of any audience.

## II. FACULTIES AND THEIR NECROLOGY.

I proceed to some historical statements with regard to the Faculties that have been in charge of the various Departments of the University since the 6th of November, 1848, with notices of all incumbents of the various Chairs. Four presiding officers, under the title, first of President, second of Chancellor, have administered the affairs of the University during the Quarter Century of its existence, viz:

GEORGE FREDERICK HOLMES, LL. D.: elected in July, 1848, and who vacated the office after one year's incumbency.

AUGUSTUS BALDWIN LONGSTREET, LL. D., D. D.: elected in July, 1849, and who resigned in 1856, having held the office for a term of seven years.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS PORTER BARNARD, LL. D., D. D.: elected "President" in August, 1856; served under that title until

1859, when the title of "Chancellor" was substituted for it, and Dr. B. resigned the office in the year 1861, having served a term of five years.

JOHN NEWTON WADDEL, D. D., LL. D.: chosen to the office of Chancellor on the 31st of July, 1865, and consequently eight years of his administration have just been brought to a close.

Of the four who have presided over the Institution since its organization, three survive; one has closed his earthly career, full of years and honors.

It is impossible, in any record of the past of this University, to dismiss this revered and honored name with a mere statement of his connection with it, and a complimentary notice of his administration. Personal and official intimacy with him alike forbid such a course; and peculiar relations of affection and family friendship between us, revolt from any common-place notice of such a man. I must, therefore, ask your indulgence while I attempt some more extended notice of

REV. AUGUSTUS BALDWIN LONGSTREET, LL. D., D. D.

The more familiar title—that by which he was best known among his acquaintances and his oldest friends—was "Judge Longstreet." He was a Georgian. His name was a familiar household word in my native home as far back as my early youth. He was a pupil of my father's celebrated "Willington Academy," in South Carolina, which he himself has immortalized in the chapter of the "Georgia Scenes" headed "The Debating Society." There he was fitted for Yale College, where, in the year 1813, he graduated in a class of seventy. Subsequently, he took his course in Law at Litchfield, Conn., at the celebrated school of Tapping Reeve and James Gould, under whose instruction so many distinguished men of the South pursued their early legal studies. Having entered upon the career of an Attorney at Law in his native State, with prospects unusually bright, he soon rose to the highest rank, and stood among the foremost of a profession in which his compeers were such men as Berrien, Cobb, Dawson, and many others of abilities equally

splendid. He rapidly achieved such fame, and won for himself such reputation as a finished and eloquent orator, that he could always command as large an audience as any man in the State, and, perhaps, larger than could any other man.

Under the powerful influence of God's Holy Spirit, when at the very height of his fame and popularity, he abandoned the profession of Law and the pursuit of politics, and yielding to the chastening hand of his Heavenly Father, in a deep and sore affliction—the loss of an only son—he accepted, with a humble and devout spirit, what he believed the call of God to the Holy Ministry. While engaged in this exalted service, he was called by his church to the Presidency of Emory College, at Oxford, Georgia, where, without ceasing at all the functions of a Gospel Minister, he added to them the kindred duties of a Preceptor of Youth, and occupied this position for thirteen years with credit, honor and usefulness.

Called again to preside over the Centenary College, in Louisiana, he remained there only five months, when, finding the field one wholly unsuited to his views, he resigned and returned to Georgia. Hardly had he reached his native State when he received the intelligence, from official and private sources at once, that he had been elected unanimously to the Presidency of the University of Mississippi—not having been a candidate for the office. Here his career was eminently successful. Entering upon the duties of his office in September, 1849, for seven years he gave his best services to the Institution, and in the unparalleled prosperity of the University reaped the truest, richest, and most gratifying reward for all his unwearying and faithful toils.

On his entrance upon the duties of his office, he was met by the two difficulties to which allusion has already been made, viz: First, The bad repute of the University for order and discipline, and, Second, The reputation which was unjustly given to the Institution, that its tendencies were towards infidelity. The result of the Second Session of the University, (the first of the new administration,) was hardly to be considered a success in all respects, there being in attendance during the whole year only seventy-six students,

The people of the State, however, soon discovered that there was at the helm a Master Spirit, and, year by year, the patronage steadily increased until the number two hundred and sixty-four was reached. Although this number was attained during the session AFTER his resignation, I have always maintained that it was due to the wise administration of President Longstreet, which had gained for the University the confidence of the people of the State, and the impulse thus imparted to the Institution continued to operate after he had left it. The resignation of this pure-minded, upright, and able College Executive, took effect in July, 1856, and I may take occasion, at this point of his record, to present a double estimate of him as he appears to me as a public servant, and as he was known to me in the sacred retirement of private life.

(1.) AS A PUBLIC SERVANT.

His character was adorned not merely with a morality current with the world, but with the enduring yet chastened lustre of Christian purity. He preserved his dignity and self respect, even when giving full flow to his excellent humor. He was vigilant, without being offensive; he succeeded in impressing students with the belief that he was solicitous only for their highest interest. He was eminently self-possessed, keeping ever full command of himself. He governed without any ostentatious display of the machinery of government. He possessed in a remarkable degree, the faculty of swaying and controlling a student-body during exciting scenes. Thus much as to his official traits. No less estimable and attractive were his characteristics

(2.) IN PRIVATE LIFE.

Genial and cordial in his temperament, he was possessed of a deep and subtle vien of rich humor, which was irresistible in its cheerful and even mirthful influence. In his heart there was no malice or bitterness. His wit partook not in the slightest degree of sarcasm. He was charitable in his judgments, liberal in his views, and public spirited in his relations to all around him. His opinions in religion and politics were none the less decided, for all his tenderness to the creeds of others. There was no dogmatism about him,

nor any timidity in expressing his views. As a preacher, he was solemn, earnest, and instructive. As a writer, his style was chaste and beautiful. As a man, then, "take him all in all," his character will bear the closest scrutiny, both in his public and in his private life. He was a kind husband, an affectionate father, a humane master, a considerate neighbor, a genial companion, an affable teacher, a wise counsellor, a man of faith and trust in God, enjoying to a degree that was remarkable, the assurance of his acceptance with his Heavenly Father. When, on the 9th of July, 1870, he closed his long and useful life of seventy-nine years, nine months and eighteen days, he died in faith, and left as a legacy to his descendants a spotless reputation, and the example of a transcendently noble life.

You will indulge me, I know, while I briefly sketch the characteristics of another of my revered and beloved colleagues, a member of the first Faculty, who has also passed away. I refer to

JOHN MILLINGTON, M. D.

An Englishman by birth and education, he had already reached the advanced age of three-score years and ten at the time of his entrance upon his office of Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, in the University of Mississippi. Reared in London, he was the associate and pupil of Farraday, and was intimate with many of the distinguished savants of that period, being a member of the Royal Society. He was profoundly versed in the sciences of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, and an adept in Civil Engineering. He published a work on Mechanics, and one on Civil Engineering.

Dr. Millington was a child of Nature, full of "the milk of human kindness;" guileless; a stranger to malice or envy. His character and his nature were marked by the utmost simplicity and honesty. Conscious of no malice, or fraud, or deceit in himself, he suspected none in others. Faithful and honest himself in the discharge of duty, and in the fulfillment of his personal and relative obligations, he never thought of charging others with any want of these qualities, until, as it occasionally occurred in his dealings with designing

men, he fell a victim to the unscrupulous and unprincipled. Even then, he was of a forgiving disposition, full of the charity that "covereth a multitude of sins." He took it for granted that men were what they professed to be.

He was wholly devoid of any disciplinary ability, and yet such was the universal love and respect with which he inspired the classes under his instruction, that he had no difficulty in controlling them by his influence alone. A member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, he was devout without bigotry, and devoted to his own church without ostracising others.

He remained connected with the University during the first five years of its existence, when he resigned to take the Chair of Chemistry and Toxicology in the Memphis Medical College. Here he resided until the great War of Sections began. He had possessed himself of a most beautiful and romantic home in the quiet little village of LaGrange, Tennessee—fit retreat for a sage in the decline of life, and he fondly hoped to close here the evening of a long and laborious life in peace. But he was doomed to a sad disappointment of this cherished hope.

LaGrange became one of the points of permanent occupancy of the army of the United States, and although he complied with all the requirements of the Government, and availed himself of all legal means for protection for himself and family and property, which were offered to him by the authorities of the United States, yet it availed him nothing. He was robbed; his lovely home was despoiled by the merciless ravages of war, and to avoid these intolerable evils he removed to Philadelphia. There he resided until the close of the war, and there he died in peace; and when he departed this life, one of the kindest, gentlest and truest hearts that ever warmed human bosom, ceased to throb.

Since the organization of the University, fifty-two different individuals have filled positions in the Faculty. Of these eight, inclusive of the two just sketched, have died, and in regard to the remaining six, little beyond a mere mention can be made,



NATHANIEL MACON CRAWFORD, D. D.: an eminent and learned Minister of the Gospel of the Baptist Church, and a son of the celebrated Wm. H. Crawford of Georgia, was Professor of Ethics and Metaphysics here for only one year. He had presided, with distinguished ability, over two different Institutions of Learning, viz: Mercer University, in Georgia, and Georgetown College, Kentucky. He resigned in 1857, and died in 1872.

WILLIAM F. STEARNS, LL. D.: was elected Professor of the Law School in 1864, resigned in 1861, removed North, and, since the war, terminated his existence by his own hand.

Hon. J. F. TROTTER, was elected Colleague Professor of Law in 1860, resigned in 1861, survived the war, and died a few years since in Holly Springs, greatly esteemed by his large circle of friends.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER EAKIN, M. D., graduated in 1854 with the highest honors of this Institution, was made Tutor in Greek in 1856, resigned in 1859, and died in 1861 at LaGrange, Tenn.

ROBERT MARMADUKE KIMBROUGH, B. A., graduated in 1855 with distinction, in a class of young men of extraordinary talent and attainments; was appointed Tutor in 1856, resigned in 1857, and died at an early age of consumption.

DANIEL B. CARR, B. A., graduated in 1857 with fine reputation; was soon after appointed Tutor, resigned in 1861, and, having entered the Southern Army at the beginning of the war, fell in battle in one of the engagements that occurred in Missouri.

It is part of the History of the University that I briefly mention the names and number of those who have filled the various Chairs of Instruction in its Faculties from the beginning. There have been fifty-two individual Professors and Tutors in office since the organization, exclusive of the four executives, as follows:

One Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, Dr. John Millington; two of Mathematics and Astronomy, Drs. Bledsoe and Barnard; one of the Ancient Languages, Jno. N. Waddel, D. D.; three of the Greek Language and Literature, Jno. N. Waddel, D.

D., Henry Whitehorn, M. A., and J. J. Wheat, D. D.; six of the Modern Languages, Adolph Sadliski, W. A. Strozzi, W. G. Richardson, M. A., D. M. Scales, W. S. Wyman, M. A., and F. A. Juny, D. D.; two of Latin and Modern Languages combined, W. G. Richardson, M. A., and Alexander J. Quinche, M. A.; one of Agriculture and Geology, Louis Harper, LL. D.; two of Physics, Astronomy and Civil Engineering, Gen. Alexander P. Stewart, and F. A. Shoup, M. A.; one of Applied Mathematics, F. A. Shoup, M. A.; one of Analytical Physics and Astronomy, Landon C. Garland, LL. D.; two of Pure Mathematics, Jordan M. Phipps, M. A., and C. W. Sears, M. A.; three of Chemistry, &c., J. C. Keeney, M. A., E. C. Boynton, M. A., and Eugene W. Hilgard, Ph. D.; one of Natural History and Geology, George Little, Ph. D.; three of Metaphysics and Ethics, Nathaniel M. Crawford, D. D., George W. Carter, D. D., and L. Q. C. Lamar, LL. D.; three of English Literature, Wm. D. Moore, M. A., S. G. Burney, D. D., and Jno. L. Johnson, M. A.; seven of Governmental Science and Law, Wm. F. Stearns, LL. D., Hon. John F. Trotter, Hon. H. F. Simrall, Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar, LL. D., Hon. J. A. P. Campbell, Henry Craft, Esq., and T. J. Walton, LL. B.; two of Metaphysics, Logic, &c., F. A. Shoup and J. A. Lyon, D. D.; one of Metaphysics, Logic, and Provisional Professor of Political Economy and History, J. A. Lyon, D. D.; one of Natural History and Geology, George Little, Ph. D.; one Provisional Professor of Botany and Zoology, George Little, Ph. D.; one Professor of Agricultural Chemistry, &c., Eugene W. Hilgard, Ph. D.; one of the Latin Language and Literature, A. J. Quinche, M. A.; eight adjunct Professors, viz: three of Mathematics, L. Q. C. Lamar, LL. D., Jordan M. Phipps, M. A., and Robt. J. Guthrie, B. A.; one of English Literature, John W. Shields, B. A.; one of Physics, Robert B. Fulton, B. A.; one of Chemistry, John B. Adger, Jr.; one of Practical Agriculture, M. W. Phillips, M. D.; and one of Greek, History, &c., Albert Hall Whitfield, M. A. Fifteen have filled the office of Tutor, viz: Geo. F. Stainback of Ancient Languages; W. A. Eakin of Greek; Charles H. Lee of Latin; R. M. Kimbrough of Mathematics; Wm. R.

Barksdale of English Literature, &c.; Daniel B. Carr of Mathematics; W. T. J. Sullivan of English; Burton N. Harrison of Physics; Robert Hills Loughridge of Chemistry; Edward Mays of English; Robert J. Guthrie of Mathematics, &c.; John W. Shields, of Latin and English; Albert H. Whitfield, of Greek and History; and John N. Davidson, of Languages.

#### 8. FINANCIAL HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

I premise by saying, that my authorities on this subject are found in the journals of Congress of 1819; in Hutchinson's Mississippi Code, from 1798 to 1848; and in a message of Hon. John. J. McRae, Governor of Mississippi, addressed to the Legislature on the 6th of February, 1856. From these sources I learn, as already stated on a preceding page of this discourse, that, in accordance with an act of Congress, passed on the 20th of February, 1819, a township of land was granted to the State for the purpose of establishing a Seminary of Learning; that the right should be vested in the Legislature, *in trust*, for this purpose; that the Legislature accepted the trust; that after the selection of the lands, which was judiciously made, the State pursued the policy of leasing them until March, 1833, at which time an act of the Legislature was passed, providing for the sale of the thirty-six sections; that the sale was made in 1833, on one, two, and three years' time, and the notes were made payable on November 1st, 1834, 1835 and 1836, respectively. The next legislation in regard to this fund, which is of importance, is that recorded in the eleventh section of "an Act for the Collection and Investment of the Seminary Fund," whereby it is made the "duty of the State Treasurer to credit the University Fund with "interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, upon all moneys "heretofore paid into the Treasury, from the time when so paid to "the passage of the act; and thereafter, to credit said fund with "interest at the rate of eight per cent. per annum, upon all moneys "due from the State to said Fund."

Conscious as I am of the fact that I am approaching a subject on which there has been much discussion and no little feeling on the

part of many, I remark that I design no offence, but shall confine myself to a statement of facts that must be accepted as historically true, and to certain legitimate inferences from these facts.

After the sale of these lands, and during the crisis consequent upon the wild and ruinous financial career of this State, very nearly all of the proceeds of those sales were lost; the remnant saved from the wreck amounting to less than \$200,000.

I next quote from Governor McRae's Message in 1856, the following: "By applying the rule laid down in this law to the ascertainment of the condition of the fund on the 1st of January, 1856, it is discovered that the sum due from the State to the University Fund was, at that time, \$1,077,790.07."

The Governor then proceeds to deduct the appropriations made, from time to time, by the Legislature, for the establishment and support of the University, computing interest upon those advances by the same rule as previously upon the fund itself. The amount of these appropriations, with interest added, computed as above, is \$203,465.58, which, deducted from \$1,077,790.07, leaves, as the actual sum due seventeen years ago, \$874,324.49.

This calculation, I very well remember, was made by my immediate predecessor, Dr. Barnard, at that time Professor of Mathematics, whose skill in such calculations no one ever doubted. This state of the facts of the case was made known to the Legislature; but that body persistently refused to acknowledge the indebtedness of the State to the University to that amount. The utmost that could be obtained from the Legislature was the recognition of the sum of less than \$200,000, referred to above, on which the State had been paying interest, amounting to about \$11,500 per annum.

I quote, again, from a writer in 1856, who says: "To the honor of the Board of Trustees then in office, they caused that a bill should be prepared and introduced into the Senate, acknowledging this amount of \$874,324.49, as due to the University from the State, when forthwith, opposition of such a character was manifested, as to induce its friends to accept a poor substitute, and to withdraw, temporarily, the original. The substitute passed the Senate no one

"dissenting; but when it reached the House, it encountered a fierce, "bitter, and almost malignant opposition. After a long and arduous "struggle, however, it passed that body by a majority of two, and "received the signature of the Governor. The amount thus appro- "priated was \$20,000 annually, and was accepted by the Trustees, "very properly, under protest. The Legislature considered this an "appropriation, not acknowledging the obligation to pay either "principal or interest on the debt claimed by the Trustees. The "Board, on their part, did not ask for an appropriation; they only "demanded the payment of a just and lawful debt."

I chronicle, as the next fact of historical interest on this subject, that since the war, when the University was in great need, another effort was made by the Board of Trustees to obtain an acknowl- edgement of the State's indebtedness to the University, which resulted in a similar refusal to recognize it, and a similar appropri- ation of \$20,000 per annum. I have since presented to the Governor a calculation, made by my esteemed and distinguished colleague, Dr. Garland, at my request, which makes the indebtedness of the State to the University over One Million and a Half of Dollars, after deducting all appropriations.

The latest legislation had upon the subject of the support of the University, is that which appropriated "\$50,000 in cash," annually for ten years, and, in the body of the act itself, it is carefully stated that this is "in lieu of the Annual Appropriation made by Law for the support of the University." The question has been raised whether this includes the \$11,500 annual interest on the acknowl- edged debt, or whether it refers only to the \$20,000. The latter is, undoubtedly, the true and just construction to be placed upon this clause of the Act.

I have thus placed on record so much of the financial history of the University as brings it down to the present period. Some further facts, cognate to this subject, need to be mentioned in order that the whole of the truth may be presented at once, and an intelli- gent view may be taken of the matter.

I. The appropriation of \$50,000 per annum seemed at the time so ample for all purposes, and so munificent withal, that, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees subsequently, a resolution was passed abolishing the tuition fee, (only \$50,) and throwing the Halls of the University open to the free access of all Mississippi students. Though done with the very best of intentions, the practical effect of this resolution of the Board has worked somewhat disastrously to the finances of the University, as well as to its injury in other respects.

Previous to the war, the income of the University from three sources, would average \$40,000 in cash, and very frequently in gold. Since the war, also, about the same amount has most generally been realized. The three sources referred to are the following :

1. Interest on acknowledged debt,	- - -	\$11,500
2. Appropriation, (including Law Department,)		22,000
3. Tuition, say	- - - - -	8,000
		<hr/>
		\$41,000

Compare these statements with the facts now existing, and it will be found that, although our income is, nominally, \$50,000, since it is paid in warrants, which are at a discount of twenty-five or thirty per cent., the University loses \$12,500 to \$15,000 annually. So that instead of \$50,000, the annual appropriation nets the University not more than \$37,500, and often \$35,000—less by \$4,000 or \$6,000 than it was before the appropriation was made. Obviously, we have been seriously damaged by the abolition of the tuition fee.

II. Another fact known to the immediate friends of the University, but never pressed upon the attention of our Law Makers, is that, inasmuch as the sum of \$11,500 has always been acknowledged as lawfully due the University annually, being interest on the debt recognized by the State, a little over four years' interest, which accrued during the war, remains still unpaid, amounting to \$45,000.

Two considerations have been offered against the recognition of the large indebtedness of the State, and the consequent obligation to pay the annual interest.

1. The poverty of our people. Admit the fact; we *are* poor; but why not acknowledge the debt? If we owe any part of it, we owe it all; if it be a just debt, we have no right to repudiate one dollar of it. We may as well confess the fact, and then agree upon the payment of such a rate per cent. of interest as may seem reasonable; at four per cent. the income from the accumulated indebtedness would yield the sum of \$65,000 or \$70,000.

2. Some may tell us that "if any man expects the State to pay this debt he is extremely *verdant*. It is not fashionable in these days of fast progress to do such obsolete things. Whoever does so, demonstrates his utter destitution of business capacity; he is not a financial Napoleon; he will not get on in life, by cleaving to the exploded theories of what is called honesty and justice. Moreover, if a member of the Legislature should be bold and rash enough to vote for such a measure, he would be guilty at once of political suicide; his constituents would never trouble him again with calls to public service, and he would have perpetual furlough from the Halls of Legislation."

There is, doubtless, "more truth than poetry" in this last idea. I venture the assertion that this is the grand fundamental obstacle to the honest settlement of the State's indebtedness to the University Fund. But might does not make right, and although it may be said that "corporate bodies have no consciences," yet I hold, with Dr. Wayland, to the old-fashioned doctrine that, "it is sufficient to know that every one of the corporators has a conscience, and is responsible to God for obedience to its dictates. Men may mystify before each other, and may stupefy the monitor in their own bosoms, by throwing the blame of perfidy upon each other; but it is yet worthy to be remembered that they act in the presence of a Being, with whom 'the night shineth as the day,' and that they must appear before a tribunal where there will be 'no shuffling.'"

One more, (and, in my opinion, not the least important,) remark to be made on this subject, is that the University was not endowed by the State. It was endowed by Congress. The State is merely the Trustee of the Endowment Fund. She has never even paid

the interest on the lost fund. Consequently, when it is said that this is one of the Schools of the State, "supported by taxation," let it be remembered that this is not true. Bear this in mind, for you may discover hereafter, that it is a historical fact upon which you may gladly fall back.

#### 9. PROGRESS AND RESULTS.

The University of Mississippi has been a Chartered Institution for twenty-nine years, and has been in actual operation for nearly twenty-five years. It was organized on the 6th of November, 1848, and its exercises were suspended during the four years of the late war. It is impossible to estimate, in any statistical or tabular form, the results accomplished by the University during the period of its existence, since they are purely moral and intellectual. Still some approximate estimate may be reached. The number of different students who have attended its Halls for a longer or shorter period, may be supposed about 2,000. Of our 530 Alumni, 114 have received the degree of Bachelor of Laws—the diploma authorizing them to practice Law in any of the Courts of the State. The remaining Alumni bear the respective diplomas of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Civil Engineer. Of those who did not complete their course, the large majority remained at the University long enough, and were sufficiently diligent as students, to acquire an amount of valuable training such as will qualify them for the active duties of Life. As large a proportion of our Alumni have rendered distinguished service to the State, in various Departments, as can be found, within the same limited period of time, among the Alumni of any other Institution. During a space of only eighteen years have we been engaged in sending out graduates, and already the names of our Alumni are recorded among the active, useful Ministers of the Gospel, some of whom hold rank among the foremost of their respective churches; the Medical and Legal Professions are adorned by their names; many are Agriculturists; some are Engineers; several are filling Professorships; sixteen have held, and are now holding positions in the Faculty of our own University,



showing that one important branch of our operations has been, and is now still, to train our own Professors. We have furnished the country with many teachers, and we hope to continue to do so, until we succeed in creating a revolution in the system of Preparatory Education throughout the State. The Legislature of Mississippi has, for many years, numbered our graduates among the wisest and truest members of the body. So it is seen, from this running sketch, that there is scarcely a field of labor to which you can extend your observation, in which you will not find more or less numerous and worthily represented, the Alumni of this University.

This, certainly, is no ignoble record for an Institution only twenty-five years of age to have made; and so long as we can point the inquirer to such names as those of the brothers M. and Wm. C. Pegues, in the honored employment of Agriculture; of Richardson, Witherspoon, Sullivan, Lambuth, Stainback, Green, Gill, Weller and Davidson in the Ministry; of Barksdale, Chalmers, Walton, the brothers Falconer, Phipps, Mellen, and Fant, in the Law; of Eakin, Calhoun, McSwine, and McRaven in Medicine; of Randolph, Falconer, Harper and Money in Journalism; of our own corps of teachers in this Institution, Guthrie, Fulton, Mayes, West, Shields, Carr, Loughbridge, Whitfield, Davidson, and of hundreds of others, whose names are equally worthy, in other departments; and, last of all, while we can point to Herring and Holloway, and Boyd, Phipps, Arnold, Leavell, McKie, Casseday and others in the State Legislature, it cannot be said that the University has been barren of noble results.

Is it expecting too much then, that the support of the people of the State should be given to it; that the Legislature should sustain it by an enlarged, broad, and liberal policy? The State, as Trustee of the University Fund, has thus far sustained it in part, and enabled it to accomplish these results; but surely it is small praise to say thus much. She cannot, with justice, claim to have discharged her whole duty to the Institution.

Under the present arrangement, however, whereby only a portion of the rightful dues of the University is received annually,

the various Boards of Trustees which have had the direction of affairs, have been enabled to enlarge the Faculty as the wants of the University demanded; to erect additional buildings from time to time; to build an Observatory, arranged upon a plan of Chancellor Barnard, for the reception of a magnificent Telescope, but which was never received on account of the interruption occasioned by the war; to purchase apparatus and collections, and to add to the appointments of the Institution, and thus to place it in some sort of condition to do its work as a School of the Higher Learning. After the appropriation was first made, of \$20,000 annually, before the war, the condition of matters was very decidedly improved, and the results were far more satisfactory than they ever had been previously. This reform is due to the scientific skill, zeal, and judgment of Chancellor Barnard, more than to any other cause. No one, however, who is in a situation to know, has ever said that the state of the finances has been entirely satisfactory. Certainly they are far from being in a desirable condition at present.

#### 10. COMPARATIVE VIEW OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

To many, \$50,000 annually appropriated to the support of a University, seems an enormous and extravagant sum; and it is thought, that in this day of extreme poverty, we should be slow to indulge ourselves in costly and unnecessary luxuries, such as Collegiate Education is generally supposed to be. Few are aware of the amount of money that is absolutely needed in order to carry on successfully a great Institution of Learning. Let us take a rapid view of matters in this connection, in those Colleges and Universities which stand forward most prominent.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.—In one single year since the war, this Institution received \$475,000. She lost, by the great Boston fire last winter, \$300,000 in real estate, whose rents constituted a large part of her income; her entire loss has been nearly restored by private subscription. Her income from all sources, and for all purposes, amounts to nearly \$300,000; her Faculty numbers nearly one

hundred; her undergraduates to about eleven or twelve hundred; even her Freshman Class, it is reported, numbers about four hundred names.

YALE COLLEGE.—At this ancient seat of Learning, where they have seven or eight hundred students, they are successfully raising a fund to increase their endowment, which will amount to \$500,000; they are to have a new Chapel costing \$100,000; two large Dormitories of most splendid architecture, have been built since the war; and every appeal for additional funds is promptly met by private liberality.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY.—The income of this Institution from all sources is about \$100,000; its endowment fund, not yet completed, will reach about Three Millions.

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY, better known as PRINCETON COLLEGE.—One Million of Dollars have been added to its funds within the past five years.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.—The Legislature of this State, in the session of 1871-72, appropriated to its University \$300,000 merely for building purposes, and \$72,000 annually for current expenses.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.—This noble Institution is constantly encouraged by the State Legislature in the prosecution of its great work, and having a princely income, extensive Libraries, splendid Cabinets in all departments of Science, ample Buildings, and large Faculties of men eminent in the various Schools of Science, Literature, and the Arts, in Law and Medicine, I do not wonder that they attract, annually, twelve hundred students, not a few of whom are from other States. These are results naturally consequent upon a wise and liberal expenditure of money by the State. Although she has plucked from our diadem one of our brightest jewels,\* yet in this she is not to be censured, since she possesses those attractions which will always command the abilities of the first and most accomplished Educators.

\* Prof. E. W. HILGARD.

From the foregoing facts, it is readily perceived how much is considered by these great Institutions, to be absolutely essential, in order that they may be enabled to furnish the proper form of education for the country and for the times. These Schools of Higher Learning, both public and private, both those established by the State, and those founded by private munificence, all, with united voice, declare that they cannot do effective work without large contributions of money. These very Institutions, rich and favored as they are, still cry out for more money; and very naturally, for they have been elevated just high enough to enable them to look abroad, over the outspread fields of human want, and human ignorance, and human effort,—those vast unoccupied tracts, which could be cultivated, and where the blessings of a lofty culture would elevate and bless the world, if only additional aid were extended. Not a dollar of what they have is misspent, but they need more, in order to do more.

So do we need more—a great deal more than we have. If it be too much to hope that the debt due the University will be acknowledged, then, at least, ought our granted income of \$50,000 to be paid in cash, and not in depreciated State warrants. Could this be accomplished, then we could not only continue the University Instruction on its present scale, but, by close economy, every part of the external arrangements could be kept in fair working order, and in good repair. This would be much; and it is more than we are now able to do. But is this all we need? Ought we not to enlarge, and extend our facilities for the advancement of the various Departments? This we must do, or stand still for the want of these advantages, while all other Institutions are constantly progressing, and, by their superior attractions, inducing our Mississippi students to abandon their own State Institution, seeking abroad what they cannot find at home.

## II. PRESENT CONDITION, AND SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSITY.

With all our disadvantages, we do not hesitate to say that we have here the nucleus of a great Institution of Learning. Three

years since it was organized anew, upon the plan of courses of study meeting every demand; the close College system having been abolished. This, it is but just to remark, had been resolved upon long before the change of the Board of Trustees; the former Board having taken action as far back as the year 1869, ordering the matter to be investigated, and a report to be made upon the subject. The adoption of this system, which is elective as to the course, but obligatory as to all studies of any course, at once tended to popularize the Institution. The free feature as to tuition, increased our numbers to some extent, and the Scholarship Law, though objectionable in many respects, doubtless induced some to come to us who would not otherwise have been able to bear the expense.

The standard of Scholarship is far higher than ever before. It never was so difficult to enter the Freshman Class; it is next to impossible for a student from abroad to join our Sophomore Class; and our Junior and Senior Classes are, necessarily, made up solely of our own prepared students. When the question of graduation comes up for decision, it is the law here, that a student shall not be graduated if his entire record shall show a deficiency in a single department. He must have no mark below the grade of fifty, in a scale whose maximum is one hundred. We do not graduate all, even those who pass, with the same diploma. There are diplomas of the First Class, conferred only upon those whose entire four years' course has placed them above 90. The diploma of the Second Class is given only to those whose average grade, for four years, has been found to be between 75 and 90. Students whose average is between 50 and 75, receive a diploma of the Third Class. Should any student fall below 50, as stated above, he cannot graduate.

## 12. BUILDINGS, AND OTHER MATERIAL APPOINTMENTS.

We have, located upon our Campus, and adjacent to it, twelve brick edifices, and one framed building, the property of the University. Eight of these are for the use of the Faculty, as residences; three for Students' Dormitories; one Lyceum, containing Lecture Rooms,

Library and Collections, besides the Chemical Laboratory; the Observatory for Astronomical purposes, the Magnetic Observatory, and a brick work-shop. We have splendid Chemical, and Philosophical and Astronomical Apparatus; a Cabinet of Shells and Mineralogical specimens; collections of Fossils, Soils, and other Geological Apparatus; besides instruments to illustrate Mathematics and Engineering.

Since the war, the income of the University has been barely sufficient to sustain the Institution. No building has been done of any consequence, and only about five hundred volumes have been added to the Library. No additional apparatus has been purchased. The Geological and Mineralogical Cabinets have been, to some extent, enlarged. The invested resources of the University do not exceed \$200,000, aside from the lost endowment fund, which according to most approved calculations, must now amount to over One Million and a Half of Dollars.

### 13. THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

In 1862, a bill was passed by Congress, granting to all the States an amount of public lands in the proportion of 30,000 acres for every representative, including the two Senators, in Congress, for the purpose of establishing in each State one or more "Colleges of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts." This gave to Mississippi 210,000 acres. By an act of the Legislature of this State, this was divided between this University and Alcorn University, giving us two-fifths, and to the other Institution three-fifths of the number of acres. The land-scrip was sold at the rate of ninety cents per acre, and was invested by the Governor in State bonds, bearing interest at eight per cent. per annum. Our share being 84,000 acres, brought the sum of \$75,600, which, being judiciously invested as above stated by the Governor, will yield a handsome interest to sustain this Department. But inasmuch as, by the very terms of the Congressional grant, no part of this fund can be used for building purposes, it became necessary that the Legislature should make some appropriation in order

to put the Institution in a condition even to begin operations. This they failed to do, yet the energetic and enthusiastic veteran Agriculturist, Dr. M. W. Phillips, Superintendent of the Farm, has fenced, planted, and cultivated a farm; planted a fruit nursery; and is planning largely, in spite of all the difficulties he has encountered. It is obviously the duty, as well as the interest of the Legislature, to appropriate a sum of money as an outfit for the Institution, since the grant was accepted on the conditions specified, and will be an entire loss to the State otherwise.

#### 14. AN APPEAL.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: That was a truthful and noble declaration made by His Excellency, Gov. Powers, in his Annual Message to the Legislature, that "the educational interest is paramount to all others in the State." It is so; you may believe it. Foster this cause; encourage it in its true sense, including the culture of the whole man, physical, moral and spiritual, and the State will be benefited infinitely more than by any merely material improvement. We call upon the men of all parties, and of all classes, to rally to the support of the University, generously casting aside all heart-burning and jealousies, recognizing here, at least, common ground of occupancy by all true patriotic Mississippians.

I appeal to the Trustees and to the Legislators, to join in league for this noble object; I appeal to the Press of the State to lay aside party animosity and rancor, and unite in the support of the University; to the students now enjoying the blessings of its elevating culture, to put forth every effort to rear high the character and reputation of the University, as a moral Monumental Pile to the refinement, culture, and Christian Civilization of the State. And to you, oh! Alumni! — so many of whom are my beloved pupils — let me say, this is more your work than that of any single class besides. Do not abandon your Alma Mater; let no circumstances of discouragement drive you from her! Stand by her; shield her; work for her; speak for her! Then, ultimately, great beyond conception shall be your reward, in the ever-growing and ever-widening power for good, in time and for eternity, of this beloved Institution.

It cannot be that this great Commonwealth, with her grand resources of soil, climate, and variety of products; her annually increasing population, and her wealth; that intelligent regard to her true interest which characterizes her people, will ever rest quietly under the reproach, that she cared only for material prosperity, while rearing a race of ignorant and corrupt men to control her affairs. Nor can she be content to behold her Sister States fostering their Institutions of Learning, while she devotes herself to no interest save those productive of material wealth.

There are indications in certain quarters that, in this advocacy of the cause of University Education in this State, I am probably exposing myself to criticism of no friendly character. But indulge me in saying, that it has been a rule of my life to deliberate carefully upon a proposed course of action before making my decision. When, however, the position of duty shall have been assumed, there I endeavor to plant my feet as upon a rock, not to be moved by the tumult of a storm-shaken deep, dashing its wild waves against me. In the University of Mississippi I see, not a political machine, as its enemies charge, but a noble foundation, whereon, by your assistance, we may erect a grand Institution that shall be the great Educational Centre of the entire South-West. For this cause, so long as I shall be allowed to do so, I shall be content to labor, the sneering critic, and the silly scribbler "to the contrary, notwithstanding."

#### 15. CONCLUSIONS.

This occasion awakens emotions and reflections of a mingled character: at once pleasing and solemn. We stand on an eminence in the track of time, from whose summit we may cast a look in both directions. We look back upon the over-past portion of our University life, and we behold it all lying out plainly revealed, bathed in the broad sunlight of reality, of experience, of historic truth. We have just gone over it in review. We have trodden its plains; stemmed its floods of opposition; climbed its rugged cliffs of difficulty; descended into its shadowy, cavernous depths of despondency,



opened before us by its enemies. We have traveled together cheerily with our friends. We have steadfastly held on our way, and met our foes; opposing to all the shafts of calumny and malice, the impenetrable and indestructible shield of incorruptible integrity and truth.

And now, this day, in all the elements of true prosperity; in our elevated standard of scholarship; in the enlightened zeal and liberality of our Board of Trustees; in the reputation of our Faculty for learning, skill, and high-toned morality; in the manly tone of our student-body; in the rising prominence, and prospective greatness of our Alumni; all the fruits of our first Quarter-Century of labor, we stand on a most exalted and gratifying elevation.

The University is known abroad as well as at home. She has a National reputation. Yale has formed our acquaintance, and interchanged civilities and visits. We have Harvard on our list of friends. Amherst knows of us, and has entertained us. Dartmouth, Columbia College, and Princeton, have heard of us, and have seen our representatives, and Michigan, the great Western giant, is our correspondent; and Jefferson's child, the grand old University of Virginia, has often been exchanging with us the courtesies of the Republic of Letters; she has been enjoying the services of one of our Alumni,\* and she has given us, in turn, two of her own sons.† We are admitted as members of the Scientific Associations of the land, "free of the guild," and recognized everywhere as entitled to full standing with the noblest and the best of contemporaneous sister Institutions. "What hath God wrought" for us in the Quarter-Century! "Ebenezer" for the past; "Jehovah Jireh" for the future!

Indulge me now, for a moment, as I turn from the backward glance, and send on a forward outlook to the future. "The past, at least, is secure:" what of the coming time? Who will be here in 1898, to celebrate the next—the semi-centennial—the Jubilee of the University? Within the last twenty-five years, from the rolls of the various bodies of Trustees, Faculties, Alumni, and Students, the

\* Dr. T. D. WITHERSPOON.

† Professors ADGER and JOHNSON.

names of at least one hundred and fifty have been stricken out by death. In the next twenty-five years, how many, and who shall fall?

I know not who shall be here to participate in the celebration of the next Anniversary. It will not be difficult to point out some, *now* present, who most surely will not be present *then*. One, I know, in all human probability, will not be here. *I* do not expect to engage in your next celebration. My work will be done; my stewardship closed; my account rendered. The large majority of my audience will have left these mortal shores. But I earnestly trust, I cannot but believe, that the Jubilee will be celebrated notwithstanding. I will cling to the hope that, on that occasion the University will number her thousand attending students, instead of our three hundred. Nor will I admit the doubt, that by that time, the added history of the University will have raised her to an eminence, side by side with the loftiest and the best. That this "consummation so devoutly to be wished," may be realized, let us from this day begin the work, under fresh impulse, to be completed by our successors.

For my part, this University has my heart's affections. She was my first love. By unforeseen circumstances, I may be severed from her, — I know not, — I know not, — yet evermore shall her glory send a thrill of joy, and her woes a pang of grief, through my soul. One boon I ask. I may not stand upon the same lofty elevation whereon now stand my predecessors, Holmes and Barnard; I may never reach the eminence of Longstreet, the great and the good; but I would fain carve my humble name upon the pedestal of the University Monument. When the touch of death shall lay me in the grave, then let me sweetly sleep beneath the shadow of her fame, amid these classic groves. Content shall I be to know, and to have it known, that, with such men, I labored for THE GLORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.



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